Negative production growth rate of hydro-electric power

3566. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the hydro-electric power has registered negative production growth rate during the period April-March, 2000-2001;

(b) if so, reasons therefore;

(c) what was this rate in previous years; and

(d) the steps taken for improving this rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The growth rate of hydro generation" in the country during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are given below:

Year	Growth rate in hydro generation
1998-99	(+) 11%
1999-2000	(-) 2.5%
2000-2001	(-) 7.8%

The generation at hydro-electric stations is primarily dependent on the pattern of rainfall and position of water levels of the reservoirs. The lower rate of hydel generation during 2000-2001 was mainly on account of poor rainfall resulting in lower reservoir levels of major hydro-electric stations. According to the Indian Meterological Department (IMD), South West Monsoon during the year 2000 was 92% of the normal. The Central Electricity Authority closely monitors the generation performance and also deputes team of experts to HE stations to render technical advice, whenever required. Renovation & Modernisation and life extension programme of old hydro generating units have also been taken up under the Accelerate Power Development Programme (APDP) which will improve their efficiency.